
**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND LAND SURVEYORS
(April 12, 2005)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

ISSUE #1: (ELIMINATE CERTAIN TITLE ACTS OF ENGINEERING?) Should other Title Protection Acts for specified disciplines of engineering be eliminated and dealt with in the same way as the Title Acts of Corrosion, Quality, Safety and Manufacturing?

Recommendation #1: *There are at least three more Title Acts that could potentially be phased out over time similar to the Title Act disciplines of Corrosion, Quality, Safety and Manufacturing engineering. They are: Agricultural, Industrial and Metallurgical engineering.*

Comments: After review of information provided by the Board regarding all Title Acts, including the number of current licensees, number of licensees originally grandfathered, rates of attrition, number of examinees tested over the years and the potential for continued licensure and testing in the particular discipline of engineering, it appears as if the Title Acts of Agricultural, Industrial and Metallurgical engineering should be allowed to phase out over time similar to the Title Acts of Corrosion, Quality, Safety and Manufacturing. The Title Acts that remain and will be converted to practice acts include Chemical, Control Systems, Fire Protection, Nuclear, Petroleum and Traffic engineering.

ISSUE #2: (EXTEND THE SUNSET DATE FOR THE BOARD FOR 6 YEARS?) Should the continued licensing and regulation of the engineering profession be regulated by an independent board rather than by a bureau under the Department and should its sunset date be extended for at least six years?

Recommendation #2: *The sunset date for the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors should be extended to at least July 1, 2012.*

Comments: This Board, consisting of practicing engineers, land surveyors and public members, should continue to regulate the practices of professional engineering and land surveying in California. A majority of public members represent the interests of consumers and provide a

balance between consumer interests in public protection and the interests of the professions of engineering and land surveying. Board members who are registered to practice engineering and land surveying help the public members and staff stay current with and understand innovations in engineering and land surveying. Professional members knowledgeable about structures, soil erosion, bridge and highway design, and mechanical and electrical issues help protect California citizens by providing sound, practical, and immediate advice during periods of disaster, when reviewing enforcement matters, and when making policy decisions. Both engineering and land surveying are highly technical, and the professional members of the Board bring a level of knowledge that would be unavailable in a bureau setting. Furthermore, the Board provides a means of communication with its various stakeholders by conducting meetings in a public forum.

The Board is also an outstanding example of what can be accomplished to make major reforms and changes to the licensing and regulation of the engineering and land surveyors profession. Its work over the past six years to make major changes to the profession and work in cooperation with the Department, the Joint Committee and professional associations is to be commended. It would seem appropriate to grant this Board an extension of its sunset date for at least six years since it has basically resolved almost all of the issues identified by the Department and the Joint Committee and has worked very effectively to make legislative and administrative changes as recommended by both the Department and the Joint Committee.